



## State of Connecticut

### SENATE

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LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Chairman Sharkey, Chairman Coleman, Ranking Member Fasano, Ranking Member Aman, and members of the Planning and Development Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today in strong support of SB 198 AN ACT REQUIRING A TWO-THIRDS VOTE TO ENACT NEW MUNICIPAL MANDATES.

During my tenure working for city government, I became all too familiar with this state's determination to hand unfunded mandates down to towns and cities. One of the reasons I came to Hartford was to join the fight against these burdensome and costly mandates. With over 1200 state mandates on municipalities already on the books, SB 198 is a mechanism to stop or slow the enactment of future mandates, or expansion of current ones.

Towns and cities are struggling enough due to decreased revenues and aide from the state. Many municipalities have had to cut city jobs, including educators, and raise taxes, but are still struggling to balance their budget. Added financial pressures from the state, especially now, push these towns and cities to a breaking point. The top down approach must stop and it must stop now.

And while I strongly support this important measure, I believe we need to go even further in these difficult times. I respectfully suggest that the committee amend the bill to impose a three-year moratorium on state mandates on municipalities, which is a proposal I have advocated the last two sessions.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify today in favor of SB 198.